

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ANKARA 2435 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
ATHENS BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LONDON NICOSIA ADANA
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NAPLES USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR EUCOM USINFO USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFAE MARCH 31.

QUOTE UNCLAS ANKARA 2435

DEPT PLEASE PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR SECRETARY VANCE
LONDON/BONN PLEASE PASS DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY
USDOCOSOUTH FOR AMBASSADOR SPIERS

USINFO FOR IOP/M IPS/PE, IBS/PN, IEU

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US, OTRA (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)
SUBJECT: ECEVIT DISCUSSES CHRISTOPHER MISSION IN MARCH 31
PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ON MARCH 31 FOLLOWING HIS WEEKLY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
KORUTURK, PRIMIN ECEVIT BRIEFED THE PRESS ON HIS DISCUSSIONS
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WITH THE PRESIDENT AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS. THE FIRST PART OF
HIS LONG STATEMENT COVERING MANY TOPICS DEALT WITH THE RECENTLY
CONCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPSECSTATE CHRISTOPHER. ECEVIT'S
REMARKS ON TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND HIS RESPONSES TO
QUESTIONS ASKED BY REPORTERS ON THIS SUBJECT FOLLOW:

BEGIN TEXT: (EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

AS YOU KNOW, IN MY WEEKLY BRIEFING TODAY WITH PRESIDENT

KORUTURK, I GAVE HIM INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WEEK AND PARTICULARLY ON THE TALKS HELD WITH THE AMERICAN DELEGATION WHICH VISITED OUR COUNTRY. AS WAS NOTED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT, THE DELEGATION WHICH CAME TO ANKARA UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO ME AND ALSO SOME PROPOSALS COVERING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. AS IS KNOWN, WE HELD DETAILED TALKS WITH THE DELEGATION FOR ONE DAY ON THE MESSAGE AND THE PROPOSALS.

I CAN SUMMARIZE THE GENERAL IMPRESSION I HAD FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE AND FROM THE PROPOSALS. AS IS KNOWN, AFTER OUR GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE IMMEDIATELY CAME TO OUR COUNTRY AT OUR INVITATION. IN THE TALKS WE HELD WITH HIM ON THIS OCCASION, WE EXPLAINED TO HIM THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S NEW APPROACH TO TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED OUR THOUGHTS AND PROPOSALS ON HOW TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS COULD BE REARRANGED IN A HEALTHY MANNER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS NEW APPROACH.

THE MESSAGE AND PROPOSALS SENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER SEEM TO BE ALONG THE SAME LINES IN GENERAL, AS THE APPROACH OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE PROPOSALS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER ARE IN THE SAME FRAMEWORK AS OUR PROPOSALS. CONSEQUENTLY, I CONSIDER MYSELF IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A POSITIVE AND HOPEFUL STAGE WITH RESPECT TO OUR RELATIONS' REACHING AN UNOBSTRUCTED LEVEL. NATURALLY, OUR OPINIONS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN DETAILS WILL BE CONVEYED IN THE SHORTEST TIME TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO IS PRESENTLY ON A TOUR, AND HIS VIEWS IN CONNECTION WITH OUR OPINIONS WILL BE DETERMINED. AT THAT TIME I SHALL BE ABLE TO GIVE MORE DETAILED AND CLEARER INFORMATION TO THE TURKISH PUBLIC.

THE STATEMENT WE ARE GOING TO MAKE AT THIS STAGE DEPENDS ON THE CONCURRENCE OF BOTH PARTIES. FOR THIS REASON I AM UNABLE TO GO INTO DETAILS, BUT AS I SAID, OUR TALKS WERE FRIENDLY, CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS, AND THERE ARE SIGNS -- STRONG AND HOPEFUL SIGNS -- THAT THE RELATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING LAME FOR SOME TIME ARE ON THE ROAD TO IMPROVEMENT.
QUESTION: IS IT TRUE THAT THE PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE APRIL 6? WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THIS POINT?

ANSWER: ACCORDING TO WHAT WE KNOW NOW, IT IS WALDHEIM'S INTENTION TO HAVE THE TALKS BEGIN, RESUME DURING THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL. THIS IS OUR LATEST INFORMATION. I THINK THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION MAY BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE ITS PROPOSALS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

QUESTION: THERE ARE REPORTS THAT IF THE ARMS EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED, THE UNITED STATES WILL USE OTHER CHANNELS TO GIVE

ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. IS THIS TRUE?

ANSWER: IN MY OPINION, WE HAVE REACHED A STAGE AT WHICH THIS KIND OF REPORT SHOULD NOT BE DWELLED UPON. IN ANY CASE, IF TURKEY'S MILITARY REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET WITHIN THE ALLIANCE,

I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS. BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME, WE ARE AT A HOPEFUL STAGE. I DON'T FIND IT APPROPRIATE TO DELIBERATE ON DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES AT THIS TIME, ESPECIALLY ON NEGATIVE POSSIBILITIES.

QUESTION: DID A SUGGESTION OR MESSAGE COME FROM NATO ON THIS SUBJECT?

ANSWER: NO, THEY HAD NO MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT.

DILLON

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